

AVTEC Distance Training Network**FY2008 Request: \$1,079,000****Reference No: 43038****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Category:** Education**Location:** Seward**House District:** Homer/Seward**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2007 - 06/30/2008**Project Type:** Information Systems**Contact:** Fred Esposito**Contact Phone:** (907)224-4159**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

AVTEC has received a federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant for distance training equipment. This grant will fund costs for providing video/teleconference equipment and network services that will connect AVTEC with Regional Training Centers across Alaska for distance delivered training. As a result of this project five or six training centers in rural Alaska will receive distance technology equipment and staff training in its use. This will greatly improve access to vocational/technical training for rural Alaskans in these regions.

Funding:	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$750,000						\$750,000
G/F Match	\$329,000						\$329,000
Total:	\$1,079,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,079,000

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
43% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

In FY05, AVTEC received a federal EDA grant to build a Distance Training Center building. This grant funded a capital project in FY05 for \$2,000.0 federal and matching general funds were provided in a FY07 capital project for \$423.0. This grant is for \$1,000.0 with a \$429.0 state match (\$329.0 GFM / \$100.0 AVTEC In-Kind).

Project Description/Justification:

This project will allow Alaska Vocational Technical Center to form a distance training partnership that will provide efficient and effective delivery of distance delivered training to rural Alaskans. Training will primarily be provided through the Regional Training Centers that were previously funded by U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). The training partnership will also enable other targets of opportunity to be pursued as they may emerge. The goal is to expand employment and advancement opportunities for Alaskan workers and catalyze the creation of high-skill and high-wage jobs in the regional economies. AVTEC will network assets – people, institutions, capital, and infrastructure – to generate growth and prosperity in each region's economy. This will be accomplished over an 18-month period by:

- 1) Identifying or developing a web-based clearinghouse to publicize distance training opportunities in Alaska.
- 2) Expanding AVTEC's capacity to deliver training programs distantly to Regional Training Centers (RTC).
 - a) Providing equipment and technology infrastructure to RTCs in support of distance training methodologies.
 - b) Training instructors and facilitators at the RTCs.
 - c) Developing and delivering training via distance methods.

Project cost:	Capital:			Annual O&M costs or savings
	Prior Years	FY 2007	FY 2008	
General Funds				
General Fund Match			329,000	
General Fund Program Receipts				
I/A Receipts (dept. and fund source)				
Other Funds (name and fund number)			100,000	
In-Kind Match				
Federal Funds		*250,000	750,000	
		250,000	1,179,000	
Total				

* Spent from the FY 07 operating budget appropriation.

This is a new systems development project and will upgrade or enhancement existing department capabilities.

The specific hardware, software, consulting services, or other items to be purchased include:

\$100,000	Staff Resources Required
\$29,000	System Design
\$50,000	Software Acquisition
\$250,000	Software Installation / Programming
\$950,000	Hardware / Infrastructure Acquisition
\$50,000	Hardware / Infrastructure Installation

Service to the public will be measurably improved. All Alaskans are potential customers: anyone in need of training whether it be for an entry level position in a high paying industry or upgrade training to keep or advance in a current job. The direct benefit to the customer is accessibility to high quality distance delivered job training that leads to direct employment. Job placement or retention is used to measure performance of all training offered at AVTEC. Distance training students will be surveyed on satisfaction with the training and job placement services provided by AVTEC.

This project is being coordinated through the federal EDA and the Alaska Distance Education Consortium which has over 50 members and affiliates from state, federal, and educational agencies and will enhance delivery of distance training in rural Alaska training centers.

Once the network system is in place, the continuing costs will be for personnel to deliver training and maintain the equipment. There are sufficient funds in AVTEC's current operating budget to support all ongoing operations costs and, as a result, an increase in the annual operating appropriation to AVTEC for this purpose will not be required in future years.

The federal EDA grant was awarded in FY07 and continues into FY08, and \$250,000 of the federal funds are being spent from the operating budget in FY07. As a result, only \$750,000 of federal authorization plus the general fund match of \$329,000 is being requested in the FY08 capital budget instead of the full amount. If this match funding request is not approved, AVTEC will need to use existing operating funds to accomplish the project, which would reduce funds available for training programs resulting in approximately 100 fewer trained Alaskans.

Justification:

The EDA has invested significant resources to assist Alaskan rural communities to provide training and workforce development opportunities within their local regions. However, in most cases these communities do not have the local expertise or capacity to deliver certified programs in the broad range of occupations to meet their needs. Unless a solution is implemented, the EDA's current investment to date will be wasted and these regions will slide further into economic distress.

The Alaska Vocational Technical Center will develop partnerships and alliances with accredited training providers, industry, and community leaders for coordination and integration of training at Alaska's Regional Training Centers (RTCs). The goal is

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to provide the initial implementation tools to expand employment and advancement opportunities for Alaskan workers and catalyze the creation of high-skill and high-wage jobs in the regional economies.

AVTEC will create and implement revenue and student count sharing model agreements between accredited training providers and RTCs to provide a sustainable training system.

AVTEC will utilize existing, and develop new, articulation agreements between training providers and RTCs to facilitate transferability of certifications and credit for distance delivered training.